

News Briefs

Miscellaneous W-2s

Currently, Defense Finance and Accounting Service anticipates printing miscellaneous W-2s for travel and vendor pay-related tax withholdings between Jan. 23 and Jan. 21. For more information, call (800) 616-3775.

Battle of the dorms

The Dorm World II Battle of the Dorms begins at 4:30 p.m. today at the fitness and sports center. Participants should wear workout clothes, as the final event is a volleyball match.

Main gate construction

Construction barriers installed at the main gate Wednesday have reduced traffic to one lane inbound and outbound for about three weeks. With the exception of commercial vehicles and base visitors, BLAZE TEAM members are asked to use the south gate to help reduce congestion. For more information, call 1st Lt. Jennifer Todd at Ext. 7123.

Pump-a-thon

The 14th Flying Training Wing Annual Awards Banquet Committee sponsors a pump-a-thon from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the shoppette. Volunteers will pump gas for patrons in exchange for a donation to the annual awards banquet fund. The money raised will contribute to the cost of banquet coins, meals and awards for BLAZE TEAM annual award winners.

Inside



FEATURE 8

Airmen provide food, supplies to tsunami victims in Sri Lanka.

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Jan. 28, 2005

Buzzsaws in action



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

Capt. Donald Row and 2nd Lt. Ben Fulton of the 41st Flying Training Squadron prepare for a T-37 training sortie. Columbus AFB will host the last reunion for the 41st Fighter Squadron Association April 6 through April 9. The squadron's pilots and support crews operated during World War II and earned three President Unit Citations. For more information about the reunion, call Capt. Eddie Kim at Ext. 7680.

Tops In Blue performs Tuesday

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
14th Flying Training Wing

Tops In Blue, the Air Force's showcase entertainers, will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Whitfield Hall on the Mississippi University for Women campus.

The hall seats more than 1,200 people, and the free concert is open to both the BLAZE TEAM and downtown

Columbus communities.

"This year's theme, 'Musicology,' features a variety of jazz, rock, country, rhythm and blues and swing," said Laura Koene, family member programs flight chief. "Everyone can enjoy the show. "Retirees as well as children will love the lights, music and dancing."

Tops In Blue is composed of 35 of the most talented vocalists, musicians, dancers and technicians in the Air Force. Since its first world tour in

1953, the group has also performed on film, produced albums and appeared on national television with such legends as Ed Sullivan, Bob Hope, Alabama, Barbara Mandrel, Boyz II Men and many others. They have toured throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Far East, Middle East, Central America, Southwest Asia, Canada and all 50 of the United States.

See **TOPS**, Page 3

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE

PHASE II			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select
37th (05-13)	5.58 days	2.21 days	Feb. 11
41st (05-14)	9.06 days	3.05 days	March 9

PHASE III			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation
48th (05-05)	-0.19 days	2.95 days	Feb. 18
50th (05-05)	1.85 days	-2.61 days	Feb. 18

WING SORTIE BOARD			
Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
T-37	1,947	2,133	9,065
T-38C	1,014	1,062	4,685
T-1A	956	918	4,043

Graduation speaker: Maj. Gen. Loyd S. Utterback, 2nd Air Force commander

President thanks veterans for service during inaugural ball

Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush and first lady Laura Bush were greeted with resounding cheers as they made the first stop of their whirlwind tour of inaugural galas here Jan. 20.

At the "Salute to Heroes" inaugural ball, hundreds of veterans from across the country, along with their wives and families, greeted the president with a resounding show of support.

Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, stopped in later as they made their way through the inaugural circuit.

Kenneth Stumpf, one of many Medal of Honor recipients who endured tight security inside the hotel to see the president, was particularly happy to be there.

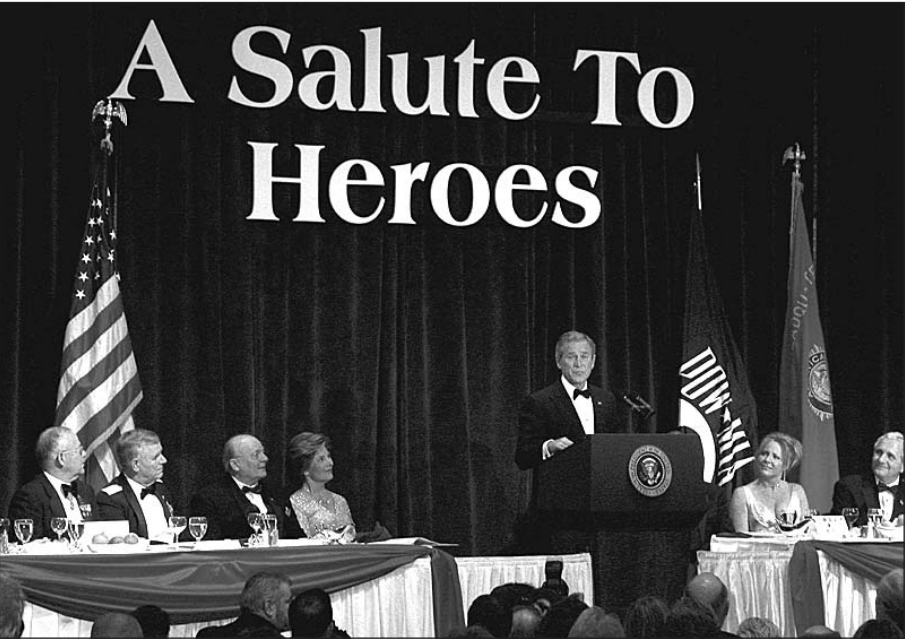
"I spent my entire life in the military, so whoever was the president, that was my commander-in-chief," he said. "It just so happens I really like this one."

The American Legion sponsors the ball, which recognizes recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. The event started in 1953 for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's first inauguration.

With applause and cheers often interrupting his comments, the president used his brief appearance to thank veterans for their service.

"They have set a fantastic example for those who wear the uniform today," he said. "Our veterans who have served all across the world in the cause of freedom, they have done so in a selfless way and for that, this nation is eternally grateful."

The president also used the occasion to reiterate points made during his inaugural address, speaking on the importance of



Army Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample

President Bush addresses supporters at the "Salute to Heroes" inaugural ball in Washington Jan. 20. The ball, held since 1953, honors recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, and the newly inaugurated president.

freedom and saying that United States will succeed in bringing democracy to Iraq.

"We believe in freedom, and we know that free societies will be peaceful societies," the president said.

He also said that by ending tyranny, the United States "will have fulfilled the obligations of our founding fathers who recognized that every man and woman on the face of the earth should be free."

With the Joints Chiefs of Staff seated on each side of the podium, the president acknowledged the difficulties being placed on the military.

"We've asked hard things of our troops and the families of our troops," he said. But he cited the progress made in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Think about what has happened in a

very short period of time," he said. "The people of Afghanistan have been liberated by our troops, and our friends, the Afghans, went to the polls by the millions for the first time in 5,000 years," he said. "Very shortly, because of the great work of our military, and the military of our friends, the people of Iraq will be voting. This is a major achievement, and it's a major milestone in the advance of liberty."

The president admitted that bringing liberty to Iraq "has not been easy," but "it's going to happen," he said. "And when it does, our military, and those of us who have been fortunate enough to be involved with our military, will be able to look back and say we did our duty, we did our duty for freedom, and we did our duty for generations of Americans to come."

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, **30 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed** worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



14th Medical Group



The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the 14th MDG for ranking No. 1 in the Air Force for customer service in the small military treatment facility category. The group's customer service program also placed second overall at the Department of Defense-level competition.

SILVER WINGS

How to reach us

14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs
555 Seventh St. Suite 203
Columbus AFB, MS 39710
Commercial: (662) 434-7068
DSN: 742-7068
Fax: (662) 434-7009
E-mail: silverwings@columbus.af.mil

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Wilson
14th Flying Training Wing
Commander

Mr. Rick Johnson
Public Affairs Chief

Tech. Sgt. Keith Houin
NCOIC

Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
Editor

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14th Flying Training Wing.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of the SILVER WINGS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office of Columbus AFB, Miss.

The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Airmen test new armored vehicle

Senior Airman Katie Booher
5th Bomb Wing

MINOT AFB, N.D. — Airmen with the 91st Security Forces Group here are testing a new armored personnel vehicle which may someday replace the ones Minot cops currently use in the missile field.

The Lenko Bearcat vehicle has a V-8, diesel turbo engine combined with armored plating, said Tech. Sgt. Kevin McDonald, 91st Security Support Squadron vehicle noncommissioned officer in charge. The vehicle sports features not found in current Humvees, Sergeant McDonald said.

“It has dual tires on the back, quarter-inch armor plating throughout the whole thing to protect the troops,” he said. “It also has a heater in the front and back of the vehicle so the troops don’t freeze out (in the field) and a top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art turret (on top of the vehicle).”

Other amenities include heat-seeking ability, red lights along the cab interior for map reading, heated windshield wiper blades and no middle console so Airmen can get in and out of either side of the vehicle quickly and easily, officials said.

To test the vehicle, the Airmen use it on routine weapons movements and drive it on different types of road surfaces, Sergeant McDonald said.

“We’re using it on convoys right now for 30 days, and we’re checking to see how it

drives on gravel and paved roads and ice-and snow-covered roads,” he said. “Next, we’re going to use it for fire teams, which are actually in the field 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”

Senior Airman William Stark, a 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron fire team member, said the new vehicle is definitely a step in a positive direction as far as getting better equipment to Airmen who need it.

“(It is) much roomier,” he said. “In the Humvees, you were confined, and you had to sit almost sideways when you had all your gear with you. With the (new vehicle), there’s room to breathe.”

The vehicle is the first of three that Air Force officials are testing. Malmstrom AFB, Mont., and F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., currently have the other two. Based on feedback from people at all three bases, 20th Air Force officials will decide which vehicles to purchase, Sergeant McDonald said.

“Each base has a different vehicle, and we rotate (vehicles every 90 days) because there’s a different climate in each area,” he said. “Before, the Humvees were just given to the Air Force. Now, (20th Air Force officials are) thinking maybe they should test these vehicles beforehand and figure out what each base really needs.

“When they do decide to pick one of these vehicles, it’ll definitely be a well-thought-out process and definitely be whatever is best for the troops,” he said.



Senior Airman Katie Booher
Senior Airman Kevin McKiernan, 791st Missile Security Forces Squadron, prepares to load a grenade launcher onto the Lenko Bearcat turret at Minot AFB, N.D., Jan. 18. The vehicle is a test vehicle that may one day replace Humvees at places like Minot.

E-File helps refunds, payments

Are you one of the many taxpayers who will receive a refund when you file your federal tax return? The Internal Revenue Service says that requesting direct deposit and filing your tax return electronically will put that money in your pocket faster and easier.

Every year, more taxpayers find out how safe and easy it is to have their tax refund deposited directly into their checking or savings account. This option is available for both e-filers and paper return filers. Just make sure you use the correct account and bank routing numbers.

Generally, when you file electronically, your refund will be issued in about half the time it

would take if you filed a paper return. Those who choose direct deposit will get their refund in even less time.

In 2004, more than 61 million taxpayers electronically filed their tax return. People who e-file find it’s the fastest and easiest way to do their taxes.

The electronic filing program checks for errors and necessary information, increasing the accuracy of your return and reducing the need for correspondence with the IRS to clarify errors or omissions.

Once the return is accepted for processing, the IRS electronically acknowledges receipt of the return. You can usually file a state tax return at the same time

you electronically file your federal return.

You might want to reduce the size of your refund and put more money in your paycheck throughout the year. You and your employer can refigure your federal income tax withholding, allowing the correct amount to be deducted.

Stop by the base tax center for more information on e-filing, or call us at 434-7613. *(Courtesy of the 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office)*

(Editor’s note: The Columbus AFB Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center cordially invites all BLAZE TEAM members to attend its annual open house from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday.)

TOPS

(Continued from Page 1)

This year’s show is about two hours long, and the Tops In Blue cast will be available for photo opportunities and autographs after the performance.

“Parking will be extremely limited,” Ms. Koene said. “That’s why we’re encouraging people to use the bus service provided by the base.”

Two 44-passenger shuttle buses will provide transportation to and from the concert for BLAZE TEAM members and their families. The buses are scheduled to leave the Columbus Club and community center parking lots at 6 p.m. sharp and will make only one return trip to base 15 minutes after the show is over.

Base squadrons are also accepting special seating reservations for servicemembers recently returning from deployments and their families.

Before the Tops In Blue performance, wing commander Col. Stephen Wilson will recognize these Airmen, as well as Columbus AFB’s honorary commanders.

The Whitfield Hall doors open at 6:30 p.m., and no tickets are needed. For more information, call Ms. Koene at Ext. 3042.

Flu vaccine now available for CAFB retiree population

Staff Sgt. Teleetha Link
14th Medical Operations Squadron

The unforeseen influenza vaccine shortage has caused the nation’s healthcare community to dramatically change its approach to the flu season this year and re-prioritize vaccine recipients.

The 14th Medical Group would like to extend a warm thanks to its retiree community for being patient during this flu season’s shortage. The medical clinic is now able to release its remaining flu vaccine on a first come, first served basis to any retirees who have not received it.

Patients can walk in any time between 8 and 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, or between 1 and 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The clinic is closed Thursday afternoons for training. For more information, call Ext. 2187.

Chu urges renewed focus to reduce preventable accidents

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department wants servicemembers and civilians to concentrate on safety whether they are on or off duty, the department’s top personnel official said Monday.

Each year scores of Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen, as well as DOD civilians, are killed or injured by preventable accidents, said Dr. David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

For example, “we lose several hundred military persons a year in motor vehicle accidents,” Dr. Chu said. “That tragic record continues” during military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That group meets every other month, Dr. Chu said, to provide guidance “and to monitor the accident-reduction efforts the department is undertaking.”

DOD officials have been evaluating safety policies and programs as part of the department’s transformation efforts, he said. In a May 2003 memorandum, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld stated that top organizations like DOD “do not tolerate preventable accidents.”

The secretary asked Dr. Chu to lead the effort to reduce the number of mishaps and

accident rates within the department by 50 percent over the next two years.

“These goals are achievable, and will directly increase our operational readiness,” Secretary Rumsfeld said in the memo. “We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation.”

Meeting the secretary’s short-term safety goal requires “real process change” across the department, Dr. Chu said. To facilitate that change, the Defense Safety Oversight Council was established, he said, composed of the undersecretaries of defense, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the undersecretaries of the military departments.

That group meets every other month, Dr. Chu said, to provide guidance “and to monitor the accident-reduction efforts the department is undertaking.”

The long-term safety goal, Dr. Chu said, “is zero preventable mishaps.” The council’s existence demonstrates that senior leaders are “involved in pursuing this goal.”

Also, Dr. Chu said, a series of task forces have been set up to address safety concerns in military aviation, training,

deployment operations, installation or industrial operations, privately operated motor vehicle safety and workmen’s compensation.

Dr. Chu said another task force examines acquisition and technology safety issues, while yet another looks at establishing a DOD-wide safety monitoring system. A general officer or a Senior Executive Service civilian heads each task force which all use input from safety experts from across the department and private industry.

The acquisition and technology task force, Dr. Chu said, studies lessons to improve safety standards for present and future military systems. For example, he said, the task force examined the issue of missing or outdated safety features on tactical military vehicles.

As a result, he said, Army officials are now retrofitting its heavy-truck fleet — including trucks used in combat theaters — with quick-release, multipoint seat belts and anti-lock brakes.

“Vehicle crashes are the largest accidental killer of U.S. military personnel,” Dr. Chu said. In Iraq, Humvees and tactical

Reservists switch to myPay

ROBINS AFB, Ga. — Jan. 1 was the deadline for Air Force reservists to start using myPay, the Web-based method for managing pay.

Airmen who did not sign up may find it difficult to know how much they are getting paid. The Feb. 1 leave and earning statement is the last paper copy they will receive through the mail.

The change for Air Force Reserve Command civilian employees depends on local bargaining obligations at their units, but eventually they also will use myPay.

Under the myPay program, people view their LES online. If they do not have access to the Internet at home or at work, they can contact their respective Reserve or civilian pay offices.

To use their myPay account, reservists were supposed to activate their personal identification numbers by Dec. 31, officials said.

If reservists do not have a PIN or need a new one, they can obtain a temporary PIN through their Reserve pay office or the local Air Force finance office, said Mike Bilbrey, AFRC’s manage-

ment and finance branch chief.

Another way to obtain a temporary PIN is by going to the myPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> and selecting the “new pin” button. It may take 10 business days from the date of the request for mail delivery of the new PIN.

In addition, reservists can ask for a new PIN by fax or mail.

They need to sign their request and give their full name, Social Security number, a copy of their military photo identification and a daytime telephone number.

The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. The mailing address is: DFAS-Cleveland/Code PMMCCA, Attn: myPay, 1240 E. 9th Street, Cleveland OH 44199-2055.

People should wait at least two business days before using their PIN if they got it by fax and four days if by mail.

They will not receive confirmation that their PIN has changed. *(Courtesy of AFRC News Service)*

cargo trucks “comprise the largest segment of accidental vehicle deaths.” Department safety experts said they believe that ensuring seat belt use by servicemembers, controlling speed and managing driver fatigue “can reduce these accidents,” he said.

And the leading noncombat-associated killer of servicemembers, Dr. Chu said, is privately operated vehicle accidents — including motorcycles.

The highest risk group in this category, Dr. Chu said, includes servicemembers 18 to 24 years of age. Military commanders, he said, will continue to issue safety messages to troops “to re-emphasize the need to exercise good judgment.”

Dr. Chu said that medical surveillance is a “key element” of DOD’s injury-reduction program.

“We need to know where, when and why an injury occurs,” he said. It is important to know not only the types of servicemember injuries, “but also the causes,” he said.

“Important progress” has been made on the safety front, Dr. Chu said, but, “We’ve got a long way to go to meet the secretary’s goals.”

TMO tips

Preparing for a PCS move can sometimes be difficult. The Air Force has a Web site to help you through the process. The site answers common questions about shipping and provides a calculator to determine incentive for a personal procured move, tips on how to prepare for a commercial carrier move and instructions on how to trace a shipment. People can access the site at home or work. For more information, contact the traffic management flight at Ext. 2685, Ext. 2684 or visit <http://afmove.hq.af.mil>.

Online socializing could prove dangerous

Lt. Col. Lloyd Ballard
48th Flying Training
Squadron



About six or seven years ago, there was an urban legend-type story floating around about a young child chatting online. It seems that the girl had run into someone who had similar interests and was very friendly.

Her new friend was another 12-year-old girl that enjoyed meeting new people. They chatted for several days and went so far as to make appointments to get online at the same time.

A few days later, a police officer showed up at her parent's house to warn them of what was going on. It turns out the police officer was the "12-year-old female" and had found out a great deal about their daughter during the chats.

She had told him what school she attended, who her friends were and even what softball team she played on. While I might not have all the details of the story straight, the moral of the story is to educate your children about the dangers of the internet and in particular, chatting online.

In the past several years, there has been a lot of emphasis on identity theft or credit card fraud using the internet. There have also been numerous television ads encouraging parents to stay involved in their children's lives to prevent them from dangers ranging from drinking and driving to doing drugs.

I'd like to make a heartfelt pitch to get involved in your pre-teen or teen's online life.

How many of you have children that age who can multi-task better than Fortune 500 CEOs? I mean the ones who can talk on a cell phone while listening to music from the computer all while carrying on up to a half dozen instant messaging sessions with their friends. Yes, these are the

same children who can't remember to clean their rooms or put up their clothes in the 30 feet between the living room and their bedroom.

Only a few years ago, the majority of computer users were using dial-up internet providers. Many people were using established internet providers. The good thing about using these services was that you were able to put controls on user profiles to limit the exposure your child had online.

With the proliferation of high speed internet access, many people are instantly connected to the internet via cable modem or DSL as soon as they turn on their computer.

What this means is that kids can now access the internet without going through an interface — thus making it harder to monitor or protect them from some of the information or predators out there.

The biggest problem I have seen recently is the amount of personal information teenagers openly share. Instant messaging programs allow them to chat with all their friends and it only takes a few minutes to come up with a screen name and establish an account.

Here's where it gets scary.

Look at the screen names on their buddy lists. Many use either their first or last name or in some cases, their full name. Often times, they have other info in there such as the year they were born or the year they are going to graduate. I've also seen home towns or schools in these user names.

Many of the messaging programs out there allow users the option of creating a profile. Take a look at your child's user profile — you may be surprised or even shocked to see what information they put out there for everyone to see.

Here's some of what I have seen recently on some teenagers' profiles: complete names, street address (to

include city and state), cell phone numbers, age, grade, sports, full names of their closest friends, birthday and names of family members.

They think they are just sharing info with their friends and finding out who knows each other the best. What they are doing is making it ridiculously easy for an online predator to find their next victim.

Not only are they giving away personal information for anyone who logs onto the chat service, many of the children have photos of themselves or their family posted as well.

After discovering all the information out there, I talked to several teens about the dangers involved. I asked if they

had IM'd anyone they did not personally know. Everyone of them said, "Of course not. If someone tries to IM me that I do not know, I just block them and I don't chat with them."

I was somewhat relieved until going through the list of "buddies" in the program. Several were friends of friends or friends of relatives in other states.

I asked them how they knew for sure who they were chatting with and everyone of them said, "He/she said she knows my cousin/ friend/etc.."

Although they are very worldly and mature when it comes to the use of technology, they are terribly naïve and are willing

to believe that everyone that chats on the internet is exactly who they say they are.

Take the time to dig a little bit into your child's online life. It may feel uncomfortable and will even look like you are being nosy.

This is one of those situations where you might think, "My kids are smarter than that," or "They would never do something like that," but it's better safe than sorry.

Make sure you know what information your child is putting out there for the world to see. Find out what messaging programs they are using and implement parental controls as appropriate. The more you know, the better you will feel.

"They think they are just sharing info with their friends and finding out who knows each other best. What they are doing is making it ridiculously easy for an online predator to find their next victim."

Different views of same humanitarian effort

Airmen feed, supply more than 1 million victims in Sri Lanka

Master Sgt. Orville F. Desjarlais Jr.
Air Force Print News

COLUMBO, Sri Lanka — Maj. Mark Ledbetter briefs his aircrew about the day's mission and walks with them to their HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter. It is a simple mission, but the enormity of the situation still affects the entire aircrew.

Their task it to help feed and supply more than a million people left homeless after killer tsunamis wiped-out the eastern coast of this island, located south of India.

Those affected are in temporary shelters provided by local government officials, but the camps are difficult to get to because of washed out bridges and roads. It has been more than three weeks since the disaster struck, and debris still covers many roads, making them impassable.

In many cases, helicopters are the only means by which to bring doctors, medicine, food and supplies to the camps that house the homeless.

It is a familiar mission for Airmen of the 33rd Rescue Squadron from Kadena AB, Japan. They recently returned from the Philippines where they helped that country after it was ravaged by a typhoon.

By comparison, the Dec. 26 tsunamis that struck here overshadow the typhoon in loss of life and destruction. Officials estimate the waves killed a quarter of a million people in this region. Volunteers cleaning rubble continue to find bodies here.

With the preflight check done, helicopter blades slice the humid Sri Lankan air. As Major Ledbetter lifts off a grassy field, sand and dust shoots everywhere, making it difficult for helicopter maintainers to see.

However, it is not just dust that obscures the maintainers' sight. Left behind, they are also unable to witness the squadron's humanitarian mission.

They hand their cameras to aircrew members in hopes of getting images they can take home. Once the helicopters return, they listen attentively to all the stories.

"It's kind of gratifying," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Ward, a crew chief. "But it would be nice to actually see the action. Even though we don't get to go, I still get satisfaction out of it."

In the air, Major Ledbetter and his crew fly 500 feet over palm and coconut trees, over the dense tropical forest that blankets the island shaped like a teardrop, over wild elephants and 200-foot statues of Buddha.

The crew lands at Dampula, a small village located near the middle of the island.

It is a Sunday and with no work or school, villagers



Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Senior Airman Matt Morrow scans the Sri Lankan horizon during tsunami relief operations here. His HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter delivered supplies and equipment to various relief distribution centers. Airman Morrow is an aerial gunner from the 33rd Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, supporting Operation Unified Assistance.

crowd around to see the Americans land.

Meanwhile, the maintainers are chasing the shade. Every so often, they move their chairs to get out of the sun, not only to avoid the heat, but also to prevent sunburn. A side affect of taking pills to prevent them from getting Malaria or Dengue Fever is their skins' sensitivity to the sun.

However, maintainers are not the only ones left behind. Staff Sgt. Rob Ivory, a life support technician, also does not get to see the relief operation first hand. But, he said he does not mind.

"I don't get to see the good stuff, but there are many people who didn't get to deploy [to Sri Lanka] either," Sergeant Ivory said. "At least I'm here. I wanted to come here to make a difference, and being a part of search and rescue is the best job in the world."

Back at Dampula, villagers lean into the wind generated by the helicopter. They haul boxes of tomatoes and big bags of pumpkins, string beans, cabbages and onions to the aircrew.

In one day, two helicopters hauled about 10,500 pounds of vegetables. To date, they have helped deliver 30 tons of vegetables and 250,000 pounds of relief supplies.

"They need this food to survive," said Cyril Wickramaratne, the director of a local export

company. "It will get distributed to the refugee camps in the east. The farmers sold the vegetables at cost for this cause."

Back at Colombo, about 120-miles away from the action, Maj. (Dr.) Mona Sinno, the squadron's flight doctor, is on standby. She is ready to help when needed.

Although she has yet to witness the humanitarian effort, the 31st RQS flight doc said she is glad to be a part of the operation.

"I support the people who help in the relief effort," she said. "This is a great mission. Being a physician, I'm glad to be given the chance to help."

In Dampula, Major Ledbetter lifts off after his helicopter is filled with vegetables. He takes his cargo to Ampara, located close to the eastern coast.

So ends their portion of the rescue effort. Relief workers and Sri Lankan servicemembers bring the vegetables to the homeless people staying in the camps.

Like the maintainers, the flight doctor and the life support technician, even the flight crews do not get to see the full extent of their humanitarian efforts.

Nevertheless, none seem to mind. They all say they are just grateful for a chance to help a region that so desperately needs their support.

Straight Talk Line

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the command-er for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058.

Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential.

Written questions may be dropped off at the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers published in Silver Wings will be edited for brevity.



Chiefs' Group

The Columbus AFB Chiefs' Group meets at 11:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month at the Columbus Club Happy Lounge. All active-duty and retired E-9 servicemembers from all armed forces are invited to participate. Spouses are welcome, as well.

The purpose of the Chiefs' Group is to function as a social and professional organization. The group was established to maintain the spirit of comraderie and esprit de corps among Air Force Chief Master Sergeants, Chief Master Sergeant selects and sister service equivalents. For more information about the group, call Ext. 7005.

Family Support Center

(Editor's note: *All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)*

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Relaxation class

The fifth of six consecutive classes on how to practice progressive relaxation begins at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday. The sixth class is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

Resumes

A workshop about different types of resumes and how to write one effectively is from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Money and marriage

A financial workshop for couples who are married or considering marriage is at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link spouse orientation is from 8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Feb. 7. Spouses will receive prizes and information on protocol, finances, benefits, helping agencies and local conditions. Registration is required by Thursday.

Hearts Apart social

A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

MCEC art contest

The Military Child Education Coalition sponsors a 2005 Artwork Contest for children in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades.

The contest includes artwork, poems, poetry and essays based on the theme, "Making Connections for Children." Winning entries will be used in the April 2005 issue of On the Move Magazine. Selected entries may also be used in the MCEC 2006 calendar.

The MCEC Web site www.MilitaryChild.org provides examples of the 2004 entry winners and how their submissions were used. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 4. For entry guidelines and a parent permission form, contact the family support center.

AFAS grant program

The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1,500 grants to eligible military dependents. For more information about the program or an application, call Ext. 2855 or visit the Air Force Aid Society Web site at www.afas.org.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force servicemembers arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Relocation assistance

Those relocating or making a permanent change of station can stop by the family support center for information about new bases, checklists to make moving easier and suggestions for traveling with children.

Base notes

Valentine's Day roses

The Columbus AFB First Sergeants Council and the Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club is selling long-stemmed roses to benefit the "Help A Neighbor" fund now through Feb. 4.

Cost is \$40 per dozen or \$25 per half dozen. Delivery is available. People can place an order by e-mailing rosesale05@yahoo.com, calling 434-9981 or contacting a first sergeant. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Feb. 4, people can also place orders at tables located outside of the bowling center and Robin Hood restaurant. Customers are encouraged to order early, as a limited supply of roses is available.

COSC social

The spouses of the 14th Operations Support Squadron and 43rd Flying Training Squadron sponsor a Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club fashion show social at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Columbus Club. Cost is \$10 per person and club members receive a \$2 discount. The menu is stuffed chicken breast. New members are welcome. For reservations, call Cammy Cheater by noon Thursday at 434-8915.

SAT testing

The education center will administer the Scholastic Aptitude Test at 8 a.m. Thursday for active-duty military members who need to complete the exam for educational reasons or to apply for a service-related program such as a commissioning program.

There is a limited number of exams and personnel will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis after verifying the need to take the exam. To sign up, call Ext. 2563.

COSC scholarships

The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students.

Applicants must be dependents of either active-duty, retired, missing in action, active-duty reservist or deceased military members associated with Columbus AFB.

Applications are available at the education center, family support center or local high school guidance offices, and the deadline is Tuesday. For more information, call Marla Fisher at 434-5527.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:45 a.m. — CCD at Bldg. 1052*
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Sunday school at Bldg. 1052*
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary worship service at the community center
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
Tuesday:
10:30 a.m. — Ladies Bible study
Noon — Lunch and Bible study
Wednesday:
5 p.m. — Bible study potluck
6 p.m. — Bible study, Pioneer Clubs, teen ministries

For information about Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the base chapel at Ext. 2500.

*The chapel annex is currently being renovated. All religious education activities are temporarily located in Building 1052.

Aviation camp offers unique opportunity

Pam Wickham
14th Services Division

The youth center is accepting applications now through Feb. 18 for the teen aviation camp scheduled for June 4 through June 9 at Colorado Springs, Colo., and the Air Force Academy.

The camp is for students who will be sophomores or juniors in high school during the 2005-2006 school year and are interested in attending the Air Force Academy or making the Air Force a career.

Attendees will participate in a wide variety of classroom and outdoor activities.

The program is open to family members of Air Force active-duty military, Air Force retired military, Air Force civilian employees, Air National Guard and Air Force reserve members. Youth who participated in last year's program are not eligible to apply this year.

Interested teens must complete an application form and familiarization exam and submit the package to the youth center.

Applicants should list their extracurricular and school-based activities for the past two years only, along with verification of participation.

Forty-two applicants will be selected for the program Air Force wide, and applications are available at the youth center. Other upcoming residential summer camps include the Missoula Performing Arts Camp, 4-H Adventure Camps and Space Camp. For more information on these programs, call Ext. 2504.

Sweetheart dinner: The Columbus Club offers a special dinner for couples starting at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12 with live entertainment. Dinner includes a choice of red snapper smothered in wine sauce or portabello pork tenderloin with roasted peppers and feta cheese in a marsala wine sauce. The dessert for the evening is creme brulee. Cost is \$40 per couple and reservations must be made by Feb. 8. Call Ext. 2490.

Worldwide talent contest: Active-duty military are eligible to participate in this contest March 6 through March 14 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Applications are due by Feb. 4. Entry information is available at www.topsinblue.com. Call Ext. 2504.

Children's flea market: The youth center opens its doors from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 5 for young people to buy and sell their treasures. Those who would like to sell need items need to register for a table by Thursday. Cost is \$5 for table rental. Call Ext. 2504.

Champagne Sunday brunch: The next Columbus Club brunch is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 6. The menu includes herbal pork loin with cranberry walnut chutney, lemon pepper cod with alfredo sauce, rice pilaf, tortellini tossed in fine herbs and olive oil, green peas with mushrooms and pearl onions, a garden fresh vegetable medley, an omelet and waffle station, bacon, sausage, French toast sticks with melted butter and syrup, scrambled eggs, sausage gravy, hash browns, biscuits, rolls, garden salad, fruit tray, champagne, orange juice, coffee, tea and assorted desserts. Cost is \$9.95 for club members and \$11.95 for non-members. Call Ext. 2490.

Super Bowl party: The Columbus Club offers more than \$1,400 in prizes at its Super Bowl party Feb. 6 in the community center. Prizes include cash vouchers for NFL merchandise, an X-Box system, T-shirts, personal coolers, hats and more. The program is open to all ranks. Call Ext. 2490.

Craft classes: The skills development center offers both youth and adult craft classes. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Youth classes are at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

February interior decorating classes will make an upholstered headboard Feb. 10 and a rolled arm bench Feb. 24. Cost is \$25 plus fabric for the headboard and \$30 plus fabric for the bench. Class times are 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Stop by the skills development center to see a display of the upcoming classes available. Call Ext. 7836.

employees, Air National Guard and Air Force reserve members. Youth who participated in last year's program are not eligible to apply this year.

Interested teens must complete an application form and familiarization exam and submit the package to the youth center.

Applicants should list their extracurricular and school-based activities for the

past two years only, along with verification of participation.

Forty-two applicants will be selected for the program Air Force wide, and applications are available at the youth center. Other upcoming residential summer camps include the Missoula Performing Arts Camp, 4-H Adventure Camps and Space Camp. For more information on these programs, call Ext. 2504.

Lovers' lanes steak night: The bowling center offers a night of bowling and a steak dinner for \$20 per couple Feb. 14. Reservations start at 6 p.m. Cost includes one hour of bowling and a steak dinner complete with fries, tossed salad and beverage. For reservations, call Ext. 2426.

Professional basketball games: The information, ticket and travel office has tickets for the Feb. 25, April 3 and April 8 Memphis Grizzlies basketball games. Cost is \$60 per ticket. Call Ext. 7861.

Make my day!



Pam Wickham

Youth center karate students Christian Nichols, Evan Fluren, Dominic Iglesias, Nicholas Ellis and Matthew Hayden show off their skills at the Columbus Club's family fun night Jan. 20. Karate lessons are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month. Call Ext. 2504.

M
o
v
i
e
s

Today
"Spanglish"
(PG-13, some sexual content and brief language, 131 min.)
Starring: Adam Sandler and Tea Leoni.

Saturday
"Lemony Snicket"
(PG, thematic elements, scary situations and brief language, 106 min.)
Starring: Jim Carrey and Timothy Spell.

All movies are shown at 7 p.m. at the base theater, unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

Frostbite Half-Marathon: The Wellness Connection of Oktibbeha County Hospital sponsors the 20th annual Frostbite Half-Marathon at noon Saturday. For more information or to request a registration form, call race director Cindy Orrick (662) 323-9355.

Starkville Arenacross: The Starkville Motorcycle and ATV Arenacross is Saturday at the Mississippi Horse Park in Starkville, Miss. Competitors of all ages throughout the southeast region will compete to be the Arenacross champion. Participants can watch freestyle by professional racers, including an in-air backflip, after the race.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the race begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door; cost is \$12 for adults, \$8 for ages 3 through 12 and children younger than 3 years old get in free. People can save \$2 on admission by purchasing advance tickets at Village Cycle Center on Old Highway 82 in Starkville. For more information, call (662) 325-9350.

Symphony orchestra: The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performs at 7 p.m. Saturday at Rent Auditorium on the Mississippi University for Women campus. Tickets are \$20 per person. For tickets or more

information, call the Columbus Arts Council at 328-2787.

Community chorus: Rehearsals for the Starkville-Columbus Community Chorus spring concert are at 7:30 p.m. Mondays in the Choral Building on the Mississippi State University campus.

The spring concert is scheduled for 5 p.m. March 6 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Starkville, Miss. The repertoire for the concert will be announced at Monday's rehearsal. For more information, call Dr. Linda Karen Smith at (662) 325-2870.

Cake decorating: The Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority sponsors cake decorating classes from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Feb. 8 at Propst Park. Cost is \$45. To sign up or for more information, call 327-4935.

Daily historic home tours: The Mississippi Welcome Center and the Columbus Historic Foundation schedules tours of historic homes for the public daily. For more information, call (800) 920-3533.

Historic African-American tour: The Columbus

Historic Foundation sponsors historic African American guided tours at 9 and 11 a.m. Feb. 5. For ticket information and reservations, call (800) 920-3533 or 329-3533.

Radio technician classes: Ham radio technician license classes will begin Feb. 8 at the Lowndes County Amateur Radio Club club house. For more information, contact Bob Ray at 241-5342 or k5vva@cableone.net or Doug Scallions at 329-2211 or JDScallions@cableone.net.

Winter ball: The Columbus Police Department hosts a winter ball at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Trotter Convention Center. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the police department. For more information, call 364-1907, 364-6444, 364-6446 or 364-6445.

Stitches From the Heart: Stitches From the Heart is looking for volunteers to knit, crochet or quilt blankets, sweaters and hats for babies in need. For more information or to sign up, contact Kathy Silvertown at (866) 472-6903 or e-mail stitchfromheart@aol.com.

For more event listings, visit www.columbus-ms.org.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one)	Home	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Yard sales	Pets
------------------------------------	------	----------------	---------------	------------	------

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

Shorts

Fun run

A sweetheart fun run is scheduled for 7 a.m. Feb. 11 in front of the fitness center. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Tsunami relief run

All BLAZE TEAM members are invited to participate in a tsunami relief run at 7 a.m. Feb. 11 in front of the fitness center. People may walk 1.5 miles or run a 3k course. The entry fee is \$10, however any amount is appreciated. All proceeds benefit the American Red Cross International Response Fund. Registration and payment is needed by Feb. 9. People can pick up and turn in registration forms and payment to Evelyn Baxter, 14th Comptroller Squadron; Anthony Smith, 14th Flying Training Wing Chapel; or the fitness center staff. For more information, call Ext. 3533.

Fitness 101

An instructional fitness class is from 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 10 at the fitness center. Participants learn how to use the center's cardiovascular and strength training equipment. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Sweetheart golf scramble

This golf scramble begins at noon Feb. 12 at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Cost is \$50 per couple for the tournament, \$40 per couple for dinner at the club, and \$70 per couple for the scramble and dinner at the club. Participants must register for the event at the golf pro shop by Feb. 7. For more information, call Ext. 7932.

3-person iceberg scramble

Shotgun start for this golf event is at 10 a.m. Feb. 19. Entry is \$15 for members and \$15 plus greens fees for nonmembers. To register, call Ext. 7932.

Summer baseball/softball

Sign-ups for the Caledonia Sports Association summer baseball and softball leagues are from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 at Ola J. Pickett Park press box in Caledonia, Miss. Participants do not have to reside in Caledonia or attend city schools to participate.

The divisions are as follows: tee-ball for ages 4 to 6; coach pitch for ages 7 to 8; baseball for ages 9 to 10; baseball for ages 11 to 12; girls softball for ages 9 to 10; and girls softball for ages 11 to 12. Registration fee is \$40, and a birth certificate copy is needed. For more information, call 251-0117.

Tennis players wanted

Female tennis players, both military and civilian, are invited to participate in a Columbus city women's league. Players with an ability of 2.5 or greater are desired. Call Margaret at 328-8944.



The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates Thomas Clark (top) of the 14th Operations Support Squadron and Paul Gagliardi (right) of the 48th Flying Training Squadron for earning a position on the Air Force soccer team.

After three weeks of try outs at Columbus AFB, the Airmen were selected from 36 athletes to become one of 18 players on the Air Force soccer team.

They are currently participating in the Armed Forces Soccer Tournament in San Diego, Calif.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Keith Houin

AF wrestlers take down Adams State, 28-15

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY,

Colo. —

Six Falcon victories, including a pair of forfeit wins, helped the Air Force Academy wrestling team to a 28-15 win over Adams State University here Jan. 22. The victory moves the Falcons to 2-3 on the season, while the Grizzlies, ranked 11th in the nation at the Division II level, fall to 2-3.

The meet began with the 125-pound weight class, where Falcon Matt McDiarmid lost a 9-4 decision to Rob McCabe to put the Grizzlies up 3-0. After an Adams State forfeit at 133 pounds gave the Falcons a 6-3 lead, 141-pounder Jake Kriegbaum went up against ASU's Kortney Lake, currently ranked third among Division II wrestlers. Lake dominated the bout, recording a 17-2 technical fall with just

10 seconds left in the third period to put the Grizzlies back in the lead, 8-6.

Josh Peterson was up next for the Falcons at 149 pounds, and he scored a 14-4 major decision over Richard Weimer. Adams State reciprocated with a major decision at 157 pounds, as the Grizzlies' Scott Cleve defeated Zach Lord, 14-3, to regain the team lead.

At 165 pounds, Beau Tresemer gave a clutch performance, putting the Falcons on top for good. After a scoreless opening period against Evan Copeland, Tresemer notched a pair of near falls in the second period.

Copeland responded with a takedown and near fall in the final period, but Tresemer scored a reversal that led to a fall in a time of 5:49. His victory, which improves his dual record to 4-1, helped

Air Force take a 16-12 lead.

Jacob Lillich was the next Falcon to notch a victory, as he recorded a 9-4 decision over James Reynolds at 174 pounds. In the 184-pound bout, Zane Hershey dropped a 5-2 decision to ASU's Don Ortega, and the Grizzlies now trailed just 19-15.

The 197-pound match saw Falcon Brenden McLean take on Josh Vialpando. In a low-scoring bout, McLean scrapped his way to a 4-2 decision as he won his eighth straight match and moved to 5-0 in dual action. Air Force sealed the 28-15 victory with a forfeit by Adams State at heavyweight.

The Falcons compete again Jan. 27, when they travel to Gunnison, Colo., to take on Western State College. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*